

Renegade Roundup



COVID Advisory

January 24, 2021

Dear Colleagues:

Here is a COVID advisory update. If you snap a photo of being vaccinated and you are willing to share, please send the photo to Earl Parsons so we can share this photo with the rest of the community.

Kern County Fairgrounds Opens Vaccination Site



[Kern County Public Health is utilizing the Kern County Fairgrounds as a one-stop shop in the fight against COVID-19.](#) In addition to being a large-scale testing and vaccine administration facility, the fairgrounds are the county's primary contact tracing site. More than 40 contact tracers have been employed by the county to reach out to individuals who may have been exposed to COVID-19.

Many of the contact tracers and medical staff on the frontlines of the county's response to the virus were trained right here at BC. Make sure all of your students and staff know that the Kern County Fairgrounds are open to support all of their testing, vaccination and

contact tracing needs. [Visit the county vaccination map](#) to find more vaccination locations near you.

Delano Becomes First City in Kern County to Issue Fines for COVID-19 Violations



[The Delano City Council has approved an ordinance](#) to issue fines for violations of the stay-at-home order. The ordinance applies to gatherings of more than 10 people from different households in public spaces, as well as prohibited business activities like indoor dining and the operations of salons and barbershops. The ordinance is in place until February 16, and two code enforcement officers have been assigned to enforce it.

The COVID-19 task force and the leadership of Bakersfield College will continue to monitor and stay in compliance with all COVID-related community guidelines at all of our campuses, including Delano.

LA Times: Will California Vaccine Ramp-Up Squeeze Out Testing?



[Bernard Wolfson of California Healthline](#) wrote in the [LA Times](#) about the state's shift toward vaccination is exhausting our testing infrastructure, which could lead to longer waits for appointments at testing facilities and people potentially exposing others for a longer time before finding out that they've contracted the disease. However, the piece notes that many health officials support prioritizing vaccinations over testing as we enter a critical phase in broadening the vaccine rollout.

As vaccination guidelines expand to more of the population over the coming weeks, BC is committed to educating the community about the continued importance of testing and vaccination while building up the workforce to expand both.

Germany Announces Medical-Grade Face Mask Requirements



In Germany, the death rate for COVID-19 continues to rise even as the infection rate continues to slow down, [according to Medical Xpress](#). Last week, [in addition to extending and tightening restrictions](#), Chancellor Angela Merkel and the German government [mandated its citizens to wear surgical masks or higher-specification medical-grade masks such as N95 or PPT-2](#). A cloth face covering does not meet the guidelines for compliance under Germany's new law, but the government is providing financial aid for its citizens to procure the necessary PPE.

Health officials in Europe are arguing that due to the [high transmissibility and more deadly nature](#) of the B.1.1.7 variant, which has taken over the continent and [is estimated to become the dominant strain of the virus in the US by March](#), more strict face covering is required. Here in the US, however, [the CDC continues to advise against citizens wearing N95 respirators or surgical masks intended for health care workers](#).

Blueprint for a Safer Economy Dashboard

The [State of California's Blueprint for a Safer Economy dashboard](#) shows where each county in California ranks in the four-tiered system for reopening. A table with the comparison of test positivity rates from several counties on the monitoring list is below.

	January 17, 2021		January 24, 2021*	
	New cases per 100k	Test positivity rate	New cases per 100k	Test positivity rate
California	91.7	17.6%	105.4	15.2%
Kern County	77.4	24.0%	90.4**	22.3**
Kings County	83.5	18.0%	108.5	17.5%
Fresno County	81.6	19.4%	90.8	18.3%
San Bernardino	140.2	24.1%	155.0	20.4%
LA County	127.3	20.5%	150.7	17.1%

*Dashboard data updated on January 19

**Kern County is under a regional stay-at-home order based on ICU capacity

Johns Hopkins Dashboard

As of 1:30 p.m. on February 24, the [Johns Hopkins University Dashboard](#) shows that the US has surpassed 25 million confirmed cases of COVID-19 since the start of the pandemic. Here is the table that captures the difference in the numbers since January 17.

	Jan. 17, 2021	Jan. 24, 2021	Difference	Percentage
World	94,759,287	99,053,788	4,294,501	4.5%
U.S.	23,819,290	25,098,475	1,279,185	5.4%
California	2,900,246	3,109,151	208,905	7.2%
Kern	85,362	90,213	4,851	5.7%

Stay safe, stay healthy, wear a mask, keep the 6ft distance separation, and wash your hands to slow down the spread and reduce the strain on our healthcare systems and providers.

That's all for now.
Until next time.

With much Renegade Pride and Collegiality,
sonya

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